AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Please amend claims 1-5, 8-10, 23, 24, 27 and 30 as follows:

1. (currently amended) An analytical test element **[[**for blood analyses in particular by a single-use rapid test**]]** comprising

an application site,

[[a substrate body having**]]** a microfluidic channel structure in fluid communication with said application site, and **[[**for the flow transport of a blood sample from an application site to**]]**

at least one analytical site in fluid communication with said microfluidic channel structure, wherein

the channel structure comprises a dilution channel which comprises separation means for retaining corpuscular blood components of a blood sample applied to the application site and a sample channel which conveys **[[**a blood sample**]]** an aliquot of the blood sample applied to the application site to be diluted, and which sample channel joins the dilution channel at a mixing site.

2. (currently amended) The analytical test element of claim 1, further comprising a junction in the channel structure downstream of said application site, configured such that a blood sample applied to the application site will **[[**which divides the sample**]]** flow into **[[**parallel flows in**]]** both the sample channel and the dilution channel in parallel.

3. (currently amended) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the channel cross-sections of the sample and dilution channel are adjusted relative to one another to

set a predetermined dividing ratio for **[[**the subflows of**]]** the blood sample that passes through.

4. (currently amended) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the sample flows **[[**rate**]]** through the dilution channel at a rate that is more than 10-fold higher than the **[[**flow**]]** rate the sample flows through the sample channel.

5. (currently amended) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the sample flows **[[**rate**]]** through the dilution channel at a rate that is more than 100-fold higher than the **[[**flow**]]** rate the sample flows through the sample channel.

6. (previously presented) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein a filter element is disposed as a separation means in the dilution channel.

7. (original) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the dilution channel has a microstructure geometry designed to retain cell components of the blood sample as a separation means.

8. (currently amended) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the mixing site further comprises a lysing chamber provided with a lysing agent to haemolyse the **[[**diluted**]]** blood sample.

9. (currently amended) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the channel structure comprises a first analytical channel to determine the total haemoglobin value (Hb) of the blood sample and a second analytical channel for determining a glycohaemoglobin value (HbA1c) of the blood sample, wherein said first and said second analytical channels are positioned downstream of said mixing site.

10. (currently amended) The analytical test element of claim 9, wherein the analytical channels can be loaded with the **[[diluted]]** blood sample via a branch acting as a flow divider downstream of the mixing site.

11-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A method for carrying out blood analyses comprising

providing an analytical test element comprising an application site, a microfluidic channel structure in fluid communication with said application site, and at least one analytical site in fluid communication with said microfluidic channel structure,

applying a blood sample to be analyzed to said application site,

moving **[[a]]** said blood sample **[[in an analytical test element]]** via **[[a]]** said microfluidic channel structure from **[[an]]** said application site to said at least one analytical site,

[[wherein]]obtaining liquid components **[[are obtained]]** from the blood sample, and

adding**[[ed]]** said liquid components to a portion of the blood sample to be analysed in order to dilute it.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23 further comprising**[[**, wherein**]]**

applying a whole blood sample **[[as the starting material]]** to the application site,

feeding said whole blood sample **[[is fed]]** in parallel subflows into a dilution channel and a sample channel of the channel structure,

depleting at least a portion of said whole blood sample of its **[[**and the subflow that has been depleted of**]]** cell components in the dilution channel **[[**is joined with**]]**, and

joining the dilution channel subflow **[[**in**]]** and the sample channel subflow at a mixing site positioned downstream of said dilution channel subflow and said sample channel subflow.

25. (previously presented) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the channel structure at least in a section thereof has a capillary geometry for an automatic capillary-active flow transport.

26. (previously presented) The analytical test element of claim 25, wherein the channel structure has wall structures for regulating the flow transport.

27. (currently amended) The analytical test element of claim 26, wherein the wall **[[**sections**]]** structures are modified by surface treatment, plasma treatment or coating.

28. (previously presented) The analytical test element of claim 25, wherein the channel structure has valve elements for regulating the flow transport.

29. (previously presented) The analytical test element of claim 28, wherein the valve elements are formed by hydrophilic or hydrophobic channel sections.

30. (currently amended) The analytical test element of claim 25, wherein the flow transport in the channel structure **[[**can be**]]** is regulated by local application of pressure or centrifugal forces.

31. (previously presented) The analytical test element of claim 6, wherein the filter element comprises a glass fibre fleece or a microporous filter matrix or filter membrane.